

## Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

INT-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-02 /059 W

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R 171525Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7151

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS GABORONE 1421

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN BC

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF SELEBI-PIKWE PULLOUT DISCOUNTED  
BY LOCAL ANGLO AND AMAX REPS.

1. THE JOHANNESBURG STAR OF OCTOBER 15 FEATURES ARTICLE ENTITLED "ANGLO MAY QUIT SELEBI -- REPORT," WRITTEN BY JOHN CAVILL IN LONDON. ARTICLE, WHICH CLAIMS ANGLO AMERICAN IS CONSIDERING WITHDRAWING FROM SELEBI-PIKWE COPPER/NICKEL OPERATION, IS BASED ON INFORMATION IN THE MOST RECENT EDITION OF METAL BULLETIN. ACCORDING TO THE STAR ARTICLE, METAL BULLETIN'S HOTLINE COLUMN PREDICTED THAT "COMBINATION OF MINING AND METALLURGICAL DIFFICULTIES MIGHT LEAD ANGLO TO QUIT THE PROJECT". THE BULLETIN ALSO NOTED THAT RECENT REMARKS BY AMAX CHIEF EXECUTIVE IAN MACGREGOR REGARDING PROBLEMS IN BEGINNING NEW NICKEL OPERATIONS "MIGHT WELL HAVE CONTAINED A HIDDEN NOTE OF DESPAIR."

2. SENIOR OFFICERS OF ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION BOTSWANA AND AMAX BOTSWANA HAVE DENIED THAT EITHER COMPANY CONSIDERING THE ACTION REPORTED ABOVE. EMBOFF SPOKE WITH TEVOR COURTNEY, GROUP SECRETARY OF BAMANGWATO CONCESSIONS LIMITED, UNCLASSIFIED

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THE HOLDING COMPANY FOR THE SELEBI-PIKWE OPERATION

WHICH IS JOINTLY OWNED BY ANGLO AND AMAX. COURTNEY, WHO HAD READ THE ARTICLE, TERMED IT "RUBBISH," SAYING THAT IT CLEARLY MEANT AMAX INSTEAD OF ANGLO. COURTNEY SAID THAT BOTH COMPANIES WOULD LOVE TO PULL OUT OF SELEBI-PIKWE BUT CANNOT, AND WILL DO THEIR BEST TO MAKE THE OPERATION PROFITABLE.

3. EMBOFF ALSO CONTACTED MICHAEL MCCRUM, RESIDENT DIRECTOR OF ANGLO BOTSWANA, WHO HAD NOT SEEN THE ARTICLE BUT STATED THAT ANGO HAD NO INTENTION OF QUITTING SELEBI-PIKWE. BOTH MCCRUM AND COURTNEY SUGGESTED THAT WASHINGTON CONTACT AMAX'S MACGREGOR FOR CLARIFICATION OF HIS COMMENTS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, COPPER, NICKEL, ALLEGATIONS, MINING INDUSTRY, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**TAGS:** EMIN, BC, (CAVILL, JOHN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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